

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 IO-13 /079 W
-----152257Z 080579 /62

R 151500Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1015
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4025

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YO
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. IN GENERAL REVIEW OF YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS WITH
POLCOUNS JUNE 15, FSFA DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND
SOVIET UNION KNEZEVIC MADE FOLLOWING POINTS. AFTER ECPC
YUGOSLAVS HAD NOTED HARDENING IN SOVIET POLICY IN EUROPE.
DEMANDS MADE DURING BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BELGRADE HAVE
CONTINUED TO BE PRESSED. BUT YUGOSLAVS NOT YIELDING. SHIP
LAW GOVERNING SOVIET AND OTHERS' USE OF PORTS WILL NOT BE CHANGED,
IN FACT ONLY MOVEMENT IS TOWARD STRICTER INTERPRETATION OF
ITS PROVISIONS. SOVIET REQUEST FOR CONSULATE IN
SARAJEVO NOT DECIDED, BUT GOY DID NOT IN GENERAL FAVOR
THEIR "SPREADING OUT" IN THIS COUNTRY. NO AGREEMENT
REACHED ON INFORMATION ACCORD WHICH YUGOSLAVS SEEKING
AS SOVIETS NOW ENJOY ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGE WITH THEIR
CULTURE-INFORMATION CENTER IN BELGRADE--WHICH GOY
FEELS IT CAN NOT CLOSE AS EVEN GOES BACK TO PRE-REVOLUTIONARY
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DAYS. SOVIETS REFUSE ALLOW YUGOSLAV INFORMATION CENTER
IN MOSCOW ON GROUNDS IT WOULD SET A PRECEDENT FOR OTHERS.

2. YUGOSLAVS VERY UNHAPPY SOVIETS REFUSE TO ACCEPT
THEIR SELF-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND LEGITIMATE FORM OF
SOCIALISM. BUT THERE LITTLE EVIDENCE OF GREATER
SOVIET WILLINGNESS EITHER ALLOW OTHERS BE INNOVATE

OR TO INNOVATE THEMSELVES. NEW SOVIET CONSTITUTION
AND LEADERSHIP CHANGES SEEM ONLY TO STRENGTHEN DOMINANT
ROLE OF RUSSIANS US OTHER NATIONALITIES, OF CENTRAL

INSTITUTIONS AND OF BREZHNEV PERSONALLY. THUS WHILE
ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND OTHER BILATERAL RELATIONS
DEVELOPING SUCCESSFULLY, THERE ARE CONTINUING
DIFFICULTIES AND STRUGGLES IN IDEOLOGICAL/POLITICAL
FIELD. THIS WAS AN OLD GAME FOR GOY AND IT WOULD
CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS HAND FIRMLY. COMINFORMIST PROBLEM
NOW QUIET, MOSTLY AGING MEN INVOLVED, BUT THEY CONTINUE
TO WATCH IT WITH CARE. ON OTHER HAND KNEZEVIC SHOWED
KEEN INTEREST IN POLCOUNS'S MENTION OF STATEMENT BY
BULGARIAN OFFICIAL TO NORWEGIAN DIPLOMAT VISITING SOFIA FROM
BELGRADE RECENTLY THAT THERE ARE NOW ONE THOUSAND
YUGOSLAV COMINFORMISTS LIVING IN BULGARIA.

3. KNEZEVIC SAID IT STILL TO EARLY TO TALK ABOUT
SPECIFIC GOALS FOR TITO TRIP TO SOVIET UNION, BUT HE
DID NOT EXPECT AS MUCH TROUBLE AND NEWS AS OCCURRED
WITH BREZHNEV VISIT HERE. HE CONFIRMED WHAT TITO'S
FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR MAKSIK HAD TOLD U.S. ABOUT
SCENARIO--THAT TITO WOULD SPEND THREE DAYS IN MOSCOW
WORKING AND THEN SEVEN DAYS ELSEWHERE IN SOVIET UNION
FOR REST, THAT PYONGYANG AND PEKING WOULD BE DONE
DURING SAME TRIP AND THAT IN EACH TITO WOULD HAVE
PERIOD OF VACATION AS WELL AS WORK TO ADJUST GRADUALLY
TO CLIMATIC AND TIME CHANGES. (SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY
TOLD EMBOFF THAT PLANNING DATES FOR TITO MOSCOW VISIT
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NOW ARE AUG 15-18 AND THAT TITO WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY
REST AT LAKE BAIKAL.) KNEZEVIC NOTED YUGOSLAVS VERY
PLEASED BY IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND UNITED
STATES AS THIS HELPED MAINTAIN THEIR BALANCE WITH
SOVIET UNION.
YORK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA04025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770214-0505
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770656/aaaabwud.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b830777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2149037
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, YO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b830777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009